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J. S. Herwig

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Judge

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THE OLD COAT

CHORUS OF TAILORS—"Hadn't you better let us repair that coat? It's too old-fashioned for these go-ahead times."
UNCLE SAM—"The coat is good enough for me, and will last at least another hundred years!"

PUBLISHED ONCE A WEEK.

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Vice-President - - HARRY R. HART
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THE NEW political engineering—Offering prizes for twins and triplets and never producing any.

IT IS THOUGHT that Boulanger and Ferry are still chasing each other, and that each is a little ahead.

A CONTEMPORARY speaks of "the honest opinion of the New York *Sun*." By Jove! that's the best joke yet.

MR. BLAINE witnessed an eviction in Ireland, but gave no thought to that of his friend John Sherman in Ohio. This was not fair.

IT SEEMS to be settled that, whether the president's private secretary wants the Albany *Argus* or not, he isn't going to get it.

THE CZAR'S WELCOME to Prince Ferdinand—"Hello, you little wretch! Now that you have come it's about time for you to go."

HENRY GEORGE goes up like a rocket. The remainder of this story will be given in the New York *Smasher* early in November.

GOOD HEAVENS! let us have no more horrible railroad accidents. Perhaps the daily newspapers will go to work and illustrate them too.

WE LEARN from the case of Ives that you can not only get rich by watering your stock, but that you can do it if you have no stock to water.

NEITHER IRISH NOR ENGLISH.

We don't believe E. L. Godkin was born into this world at all. He is a heavenite. He was an angel at the beginning of him. He left paradise because its management did not suit him, and came down to show the outside universe what he could do in the line of reform. And if he should happen to get mad and return we should all go to smash.

HEROIC SELF-RESTRAINT.

WAITER (*at Crash & Rook's during the water-melon season*)—"Talk about yo' gitt'n tahnta-lized !!" (*drools.*)

MR. BLAINE'S HEALTH is a very live topic among all of Mr. Blaine's opponents. They are suffering from Mr. Blaine's health more than Mr. Blaine is.

THIS YEAR will live in history for its remarkable development of humidity. There has been only one happy man, and he died of the trouble three weeks ago.

TWO BRIGADIERS.

The JUDGE thinks that Senator Riddleberger filled the bill marked out for him when he got himself in jail the other day, and that he was the kind of hero he was cut out to be when he got out of jail through the aid of a mob. The country has had too much of that distinguished brigadier, and his retirement from the senate will be his best act, the more so if he gets into jail again in order to do it the more effectively. And all that might be said in this kind of compliment of Riddleberger will apply with equal force to Mahone. The less this country knows of these two men the better it will like them.

THE MAN IVES ought to go to prison; but how many hair-breadth escapes did Jay Gould have before he reached the point of absolute safety in his financial experiments.

SOME DAY there ought to be a fight with Indians with the design of killing them; but by that time old Uncle Colorow will have been dead of old age a good many years.

SOME INCONSISTENCY.

"Harmony be blanked, once and forever!" exclaims Socialist Shevitch, speaking of the late labor convention. Certainly. To be sure. There is no harmony consistent with socialism. But why, then, do these socialists make such persistent efforts to harmonize with anybody sufficiently ashamed of himself to want to fraternize with them, and why do they froth so at the mouth when the efforts fail?

A CHINESE CASHIER has disappeared, with much money that belonged to the institution for which he officiated. These Chinamen learn our ways with wonderful rapidity.

IN REPUDIATING Governor Hill the labor men have spoiled some very shrewd political managing. It is sad that so much of the governor's arduous labor should have been thrown away.

HENRY WATTERSON is so agitated about the money devil that he has refused to accept his salary and has thrown the scissors with which he clipped his coupons to the unappreciative dogs.

THE NEW F. WARD.

Mr. Ives did not steal. Mr. Ives simply assumed the possession of securities which had no existence and of a power of converting air into money which was equally without life. Mr. Ives must not be punished. However many he may have ruined, he is guilty of nothing worse than a deception so patent on its face that everybody ought to have known enough to understand it. Do not punish Mr. Ives. He is less guilty, as was Ward, than the men with whom he dealt.

THERE IS TALK by Mr. Powderly of a new know-nothing party. Perhaps it will be well. Let us build a picket-wire fence all along the coast, and further provide for defence by sticking up the placard "Keep off the grass."

THE MAN who fought for Grover Cleveland is dead. Will it be a campaign argument that, however he may have fought, he died, as Mr. Cleveland's representative, like a hero? Perhaps not, because he was not paid like one.

GOOD RIDDANCE.

Now the government is running itself. The president and the first lady will soon be off. Garland is in Arkansas. Lamar is in Mississippi. Vilas is in Wisconsin. Endicott is nursing his mugwumpery in Massachusetts. Bayard is sleeping sweetly in Maryland. Of all the boys nobody is left to manage the machine but Dan Lamont, and his absences are frequent and extended. Is there any harm in it? Not any. Grant had his vacation, and we never had a better president than Grant. Washington had his. Lincoln would have had his but for the fact that the war wouldn't let him. The government can take care of itself in warm weather. The chief representatives of it are

only a detriment to its easy movement when there are heat and humidity. They are better away, and they will do better work when they return because of their rest. Let them enjoy themselves to the utmost and believe that they are having just the fun that belongs to them, no more and no less.

A SOCIALIST ORATOR says he knows the socialists are as sincere men as ever worked in any cause. Undoubtedly. And their smiles are as sweet as those of the traditional man who devotes himself to cutting throats and scuttling ships.

JOHN SWINTON died a lovely as well as an impressive death. There wasn't a whine in it, or yet a convulsive sob. But he really had less reason to mourn over it than the cause of labor, which seems to be more stony-hearted and indifferent than he is.

THERE ARE NO STUTTERING WOMEN.

We observe great inaccuracy in the newspapers of two or three sections of this state. One of them says that there is an "expert natural woman stutterer" in the Catskills, and the others declare that there are three other women stutterers in the same number of rural localities in Oneida and Madison counties. Now it is possible that there have been cases of suddenly relieved lockjaw which have had that result, and there may have been sicknesses which have been as startlingly unfortunate; but the JUDGE declares with emphasis that no woman was ever a stutterer at birth or ever acquired that affliction at the subsequent period when she began to talk. Neither is there anything in the air of Greene, Oneida and Madison counties to produce stuttering; so that the several statements are either out-and-out falsehoods or inventions without any substantial foundation in fact. We have heard with more or less interest of white blackbirds, and bay horses clad in white coats, and honest Democrats, and temperate prohibitionists, and possibly they have more or less of an existence; but there was never yet a stuttering woman and there never will be. Set that down. Hang it up. Send it abroad. Show us an alleged woman who stutters and we will show you an individual who has no right to wear the gown

A CARPET KNIGHT.

COL. LONGBOW—"It was the toughest fight I ever saw; and right in the middle of it a twelve-pound shell came tearing into the trench beside me. Notwithstanding the short fuse I picked it up and had just time to hurl it over the breast-works when it exploded and"——

MRS. CANOOSER—"Excuse me; colonel, if I sit down, I'm a little tired."

And that reprehensible rubber bustle had to burst and spoil the rest of the story.

AT LAST ACCOUNTS Whitelaw Reid was camping in the Adirondacks, having mysteriously returned from Jones river. The amount of Mr. Reid's defalcation is not mentioned, but it is at least to his credit that he isn't mean enough to confine himself to Canada.

HER ELOQUENT ACQUIESCENCE.

The JUDGE'S boom of Mrs. Cleveland goes on and on like the resistless, ever-moving, overwhelming waves. The newspapers are filled with compliments of her which, as they all know, she eminently deserves, and every smile upon that bugle-horn, if we may be permitted the expression, is worth a thousand men. And she is as wise in her silence as in her conversation. She has nothing to say, and that in this crisis, as the other presidential aspirants know, is the best of all possible utterances.

THE IMMIGRANT comes here, as did the puritan, to enjoy the blessing of perfect freedom, and finds before he gets out of Castle Garden that it means ten cents for a glass of beer and thirteen dollars for railroad tickets that cost all other parties about five dollars apiece.

A MAN out west tried to pick a cartridge to pieces with a pin, and the cartridge got so much the better of him that it was at first thought he would have to have three funerals. Things are so deceptive that it is always safe to most let alone that which we least understand.

PROHIBITION IS becoming unpopular in Iowa. They say it makes sneaks of men, and when it doesn't do that it drives them to opium—which, after all, is about the same thing. But, worse still, it makes some of them prohibitionists—and as to that there is no redemption.

GOT IT FOR NOTHING.

The labor men at Syracuse proved wise against temptation in refusing to fraternize with the socialists. Had they accepted the proffered support and friendship they would have ruined themselves without the formality of a verdict at the polls; and as things are they have secured the socialistic vote without sacrificing an iota of anything for it — for of course the socialists have nowhere else to go and no other party to vote with.

MR. CURTIS says the tariff will not be an issue in the next national canvass because the Democracy will not let it be an issue. There was a man who insisted, when he stood up to be hanged, that the knot should go under the right ear, but the officiating deputy had his way.

JUDGING from the loss of Ives's books and those of several large business institutions, the borrowers are putting in their finest work.

HUM OF THE COURT.

At this season avarice may be defined as a desire to catch fish at both ends of the pole.

In our opinion E. L. Godkin doesn't belong to any nationality. He is a mugwump and therefore too big a man.

When a writer uses in the same sentence the words "but" and "however" he should be condemned to five days' hard labor on the New York *Sun*.

Virginia was pretty bad during the rebellion, but it never dreamed of the humiliation of having to be responsible for Mahone and Riddleberger when they got to be great men.

JUDGE'S FABLES.

A newspaper and a book jostled each other on Broadway. Turning around angrily, the book was about to make a disagreeable remark, when, observing who the other was, its manner changed.

"We are both children of the press," said the book, "and there should be no animosity between us."

"On your side, at least," rejoined the newspaper, "there should be none, for I have as many readers in one day as you have in your life, and it is only through me that the breath of life can be puffed into your body. When you get a little reputation you snub your old friends and benefactors."

"You need not quarrel," said the book, "for when you have long been consigned to the oblivion of the ash-barrel a chance allusion to you in my pages may be all that keeps your name alive."

So they went and took a bottle of ink together.

Moral—Don't ride your own hobby too hard. The universe won't stop its revolutions because your particular theory of existence is proved false or pernicious.

A CHANGE OF SENTIMENT.

DEASEY—"He's wan o' th' foinest bur-r-ds iver imporrted. I'd not tek tin dollars fer him thish minute. Cleary gev me him down on th' dock. It's moultin' he is at prisint, but prisintly he'll kim out thot shparklin', yez'll hev ter shade yure oyes phin ye"—

PARROT (*breaking in suddenly and with tremendous emphasis*)—"Shoot the pope ! ! !"

That seems odd ; but at all events it is better than the sacrifice to art of a Georgia actress who played *Juliet* one night and gave birth to a little Capulet the very next day.

There is said to be a desire on the part of England to possess Peru. It seems like a yearning to get the measles, and it is safe to say that if England is gratified she will Peru the day she got it.

G. Cleveland and D. B. Hill, who offer prizes for twins and triplets, are not papas themselves; and thus it is developed that we like best that which never comes to our own doors and is not within the limits of our own money.

A thousand contributors inform us that Dr. McGlynn is like a goose gone astray because he does not follow the propaganda. It is a sweet thing, kind and gentle sirs and madams and misses ; but there is so intolerably much of it.

A recent death shows the folly of smoking cigarettes. If you must smoke cigarettes smoke only a hundred or so a day.

No man should be angry without cause ; but of course if that rule is to be respected the world will have to be destroyed and built over again.

A newspaper tells of "the father of forty-one children who was killed when sixty-nine years old." Heavens ! What a narrow escape this poor little world has had.

Messrs. George and McGlynn couldn't fraternize with the socialists at Syracuse because at this time votes are not immediately necessary and it is better to bargain for them in a purely private way.

"Do you think the man legally guilty according to the evidence ?" was the question ; and immediately every lawyer present inquired with extreme anxiety, "What is the amount of his assets and liabilities ?"

"Keep your mouth shut !" exclaims a St. Louis editor to Henry Watterson. That is the most cruel of all suggestions. If the St. Louis man were to do that he would die of thirst in about ten minutes.

The Norristown *Herald* asks for a hired girl who will get up without being called. This is not the proper article of evolution. What is most wanted is a household that will insist on no getting up at all.

Modjeska is a grandmother, and a contemporary says she will now make *Juliet* her principal role.

DEASEY (*promptly*)—"Git th' axe, Honorah !"

A LAKE GEORGE IDYL.

MISS PRIMM—"How charmingly modest those little boys are, and how they will enjoy their swim in the"——
(Fence breaks down with a chorus of warwhoops, and Miss Primm faints gracefully.)

AN OLD BACHELOR'S LOVE.

Now, because you are young and romantic,
You wonder I have not a wife,
And you hint at an episode frantic,
A chapter of love in my life.

I have floated far down on time's river,
And yet I confess not a dart
Little Cupid let fly from his quiver
Has hit my phlegmatic old heart.

You incredulous being to doubt it!
Well, have it your way if you will.
You are right. Ask me no more about it.
Enough, that I loved—love her still.

No, she is not a beautiful creature,
But she has a beautiful soul,
And its grace, shining out in each feature,
Transforms and illumines the whole.

"Why not marry her then? It is clearly
Sheer folly such feeling to smother."
I shall love her forever sincerely,
But man, can I marry—my mother?

M. A. CHILDS.

SOME CANDID JUDGMENT.

Briggs—"Tompkins has been talking about you."
"He has? The idiotic old liar! What did he say?"
"Why, he said you were the best looking man in the block."
"Wh— O, I see! Well, you know Mr. Tompkins was always conceded to have a great deal of taste."

NOT A GOOD WITNESS.

In a cheap restaurant.
"See here, waiter; this steak is at least three weeks old."
"Can't say, sir; I've only been here a fortnight."

SOMETHING WRONG SOMEWHERE.

At a restaurant.
"Waiter, this salmon isn't fresh."
"How can that be, sir? it's just off the ice, sir."
"Then it's your ice that isn't fresh, waiter."

HE KNEW THE KICK OF THE BEAST.

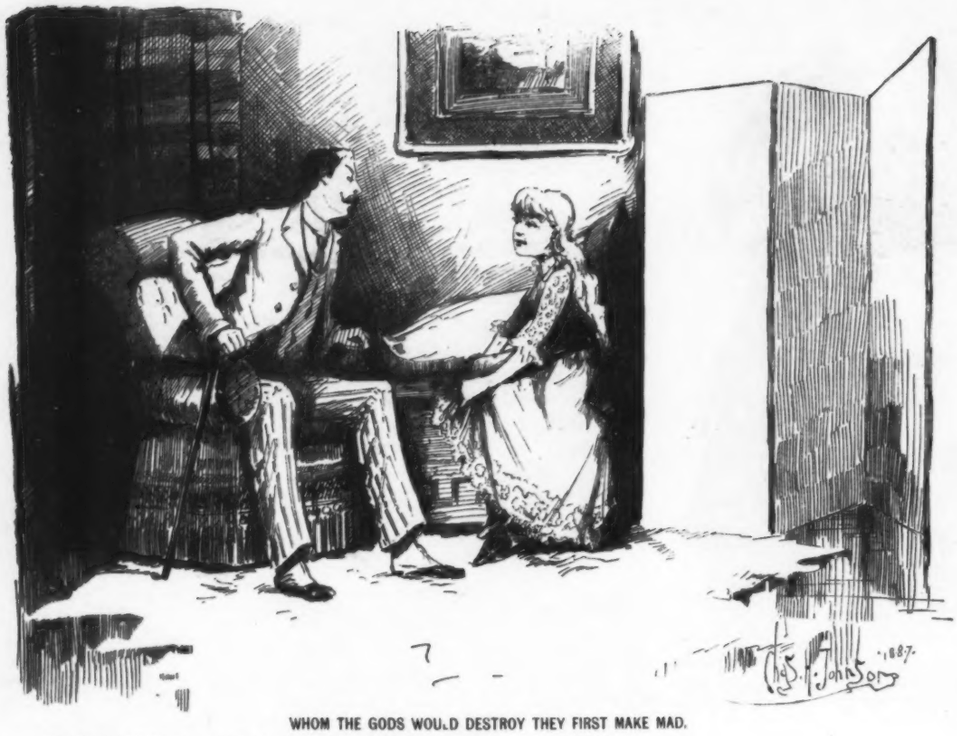
Gibson—"How did you catch your mule, Uncle Zeke?"
Uncle Zeke—"Jist follered de trail ob de beast. Yer cawn't fool dis chile on de dust what dat ar' mule kicks up, fer I kin reco'nize it ez fur ez I kin see it."

HE WANTED TO BECOME A KELLY.

First small boy (outside the polo grounds)—"Yer oughter seen that hit, Jim."
Second small boy—"Wot wuz it?"
First small boy—"Mike Kelly hit de ball so hard dat de cover wuz ripped clean offen it."
Second small boy—"I tell yer wot, Mick, I ain't goin' to eat nothin' but beans fer a year."

A CRITERION.

"So you really think he loves me, Emilie?"
"Oh! I'm quite sure he does, Mamie. It was only this morning I heard him say he actually believed that silly little goose, Mamie Smith, had made an impression on him."



WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY THEY FIRST MAKE MAD.

MISS BESSIE—"Are you coming to see sister again to-morrow night, Mr. De Lillie?"
DE L.—"Well-er-ah-er—I don't know, I'm sure. Why do you ask, Miss Bessie?"
MISS B.—"She said she hoped you would come, and"—
DE L. (*highly flattered and interrupting*)—"Yes, yes! Certainly, by all means, I *shall* come, if my absence would be any manner of disappointment to your sister!"
MISS B.—"Yes, she said she hoped you would come to-morrow night, as she would be *out*."

HE KNEW BETTER.

Johnson was going along the street when he came across the sign "Fire-works."

"It's a blamed lie!" exclaimed Johnson; "fire doesn't work."

CHESTNUT SIGNS.

Bargains.

Boy wanted.

Keep off the grass.

Selling out at cost.

Will be back in ten minutes.

Stock slighty damaged by fire.

Molasses candy fresh every hour.

SENTENTIOUS.

Mrs. McMahan—"Av you sthep wan fut in th' dure, McM'an, Oi'll pit th' fhlat side av th' ironin'-boord an yure back. It's dhrippin', soakin' wit yez bees."

McMahan—"Thrue fer yez, darlin', thrue fer yez, an' onnly fer wan t'ing Oi'd be dhry."

Mrs. McMahan—"Onn'y wan t'ing?"

McMahan—"Yis. We wor diggin' McNulty's well, an' phin th' shower kem oop, it's tur-rn th' well oopsy doon an' git oonder it we cudn't do."

(Swish! swash! flap! and a cracked ironing-board.)

UNCONGENIAL OCCUPATION.

Sunny Italian—"Mea wanta teecket home by ze boata Independencia."

Steamship passenger agent—"Why, you came out only last month! Sick of the country, Pietro?"

Sunny Italian—"Verra. Ze pozeetion my broder getta me here ees no agreeabletto."

Steamship agent—"What was it?"

Sunny Italian—"Ah! ze sna-a-a-ke! when I land, he say, 'Come, Pietro, you getta four dolla a week cutting soap in ze Turkeesh bath-house.' His backa has my stiletto!"

LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO.

First Chicagoan—"Know McGarigle? Of course I do. Why, he and I were brought up together."

Second Chicagoan—"Is that so? He took to stealing from the county, while—er—may I ask what your business is?"

First Chicagoan—"Yes, sir; I'm in the plumbing line."

RESULT OF EARILY TRAINING.

"Your counsel is rather long-winded," remarked a witness to the defendant.

"Yes," was the reply; "he used to be a barber."

A SURF-EIT.

I know a little fellow,
And he asked me for my hand;
He said I'd be his mermaid,
But he hasn't got the sand
Nor rocks for me to sport on,
As the seasons come about,
And I want a shell as Venus,
But this chappie can't shell out.

And I do admire his freshness,
Though he's very much at sea,
For he says he just adores me
For he sees so much of me.
When on the beach I'm tripping,
I admire the fellow's gall,
For he makes such puns on stripping,
And that I outstrip them all.

And I tell the little fellow,
As I trip along the beach,
That I think that he is tripping
In his declaration speech,
And about my bathing costume.
When I leave the sounding sea
And I meet him in the city,
He won't see so much of me.

HE KNEW HIM.

Stranger (in New York)—"Four pounds of chrome yellow, please."

Dealer—"Yes, sir; and how is the bakery business in Philadelphia?"

UNEXPECTED.

BRIDGET—"Howly mither o' Moses! an' is it you, Pat?"
PAT—"It's misilf, me darlint. I wuz passin' by th' house whin I thought I'd '*drop in*' to see ye."

DREAM LIFE.

She lies along the sward and dreams.
Below the white pond-lily gleams:
But whiter than the lily's gleam,
And purer, is her maiden dream.

The lily's petals, waxen white,
Burst open to the morning light,
But fairer is the opening flower
That dreams alone this morning hour.

Between the lilies on the stream,
And skies with azure summer gleam,
The fairest sight the eye may see
Floats in this form of purity.

And if along the stream you stray
At early morn or close of day,
Not flowers below or heaven above
Will snare the heart in webs of love.

BUZZ SAWS.

Luck often makes us over confident.
The flirt sometimes falls in love herself.
The arm of the law seems often out of joint.
The hen that doesn't lay eats the most corn.
The cramp often picks out the best swimmer.
The truest tale isn't always the most believed.
A pair of scissors must part before they can meet.
The insolvent bank often has the finest building.
The fire comes when the insurance policy runs out.
You can't judge a man by his own recommendation.
To shake hands with an enemy won't atone for a wrong.
A table with three legs is often as steady as one with four.
The man with the longest sword often gets the worst of it.
The fish that gets away always looks as big as the sea serpent.
The man who drinks the most hasn't always the reddest nose.
Good credit in business is often better than a fat bank account.
Every lane has a turn, but many of us get tired before we reach it.
The little money the workingman gets from the capitalist the labor agitator tries to take away from him.

In these days of elopements it is becoming rather risky to furnish your new house before the marriage ceremony has been performed.

When we haven't a penny we want taffy; when we have the penny we want a house, and when we have enough to buy a house we want the earth.

WHERE HE GOT IT.

Employer—"John, did you get this dead letter from the post-office?"
John—"No, sir; from the post mortem."

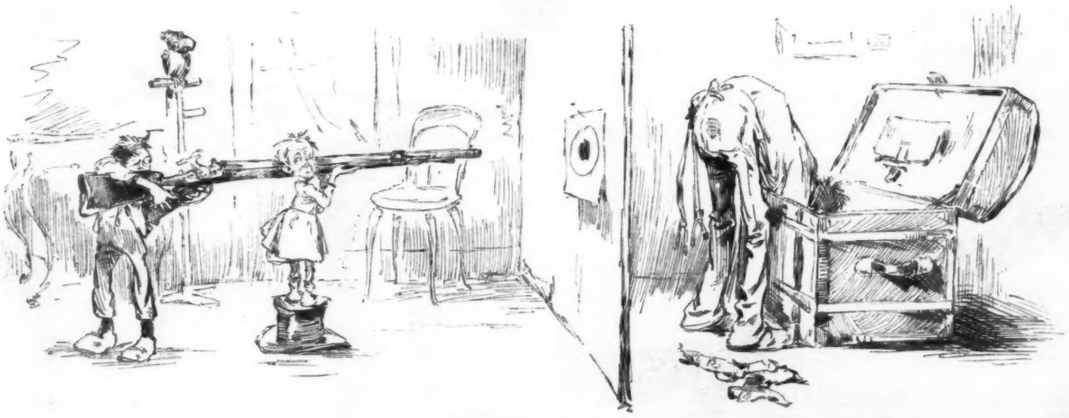
TOO BAD.

First doctor—"Seems to me you're feeling awfully blue to-day. What's up?"

Second doctor—"A great source of my income has been suddenly cut off despite all I could do."

First doctor—"How's that?"

Second doctor—"The millionaire, Peters, has entirely recovered from the illness which I some time ago pronounced fatal."



REEDMOOR AT HOME.
"Hold on tight ter der gun, Milesy, an' I bet I'll hit sumthin'."

A TRICK OF THE TRADE.

"I'm writing a novel," said Miss Gush to the story-writer of a young ladies' magazine, "and I want you to tell me what you do when one of the characters saves the life of the hero and falls in love with him just when he is about to marry the heroine?"

"Why," was the matter of fact reply, "I kill her, of course."

HELP FOR AN ORPHAN.

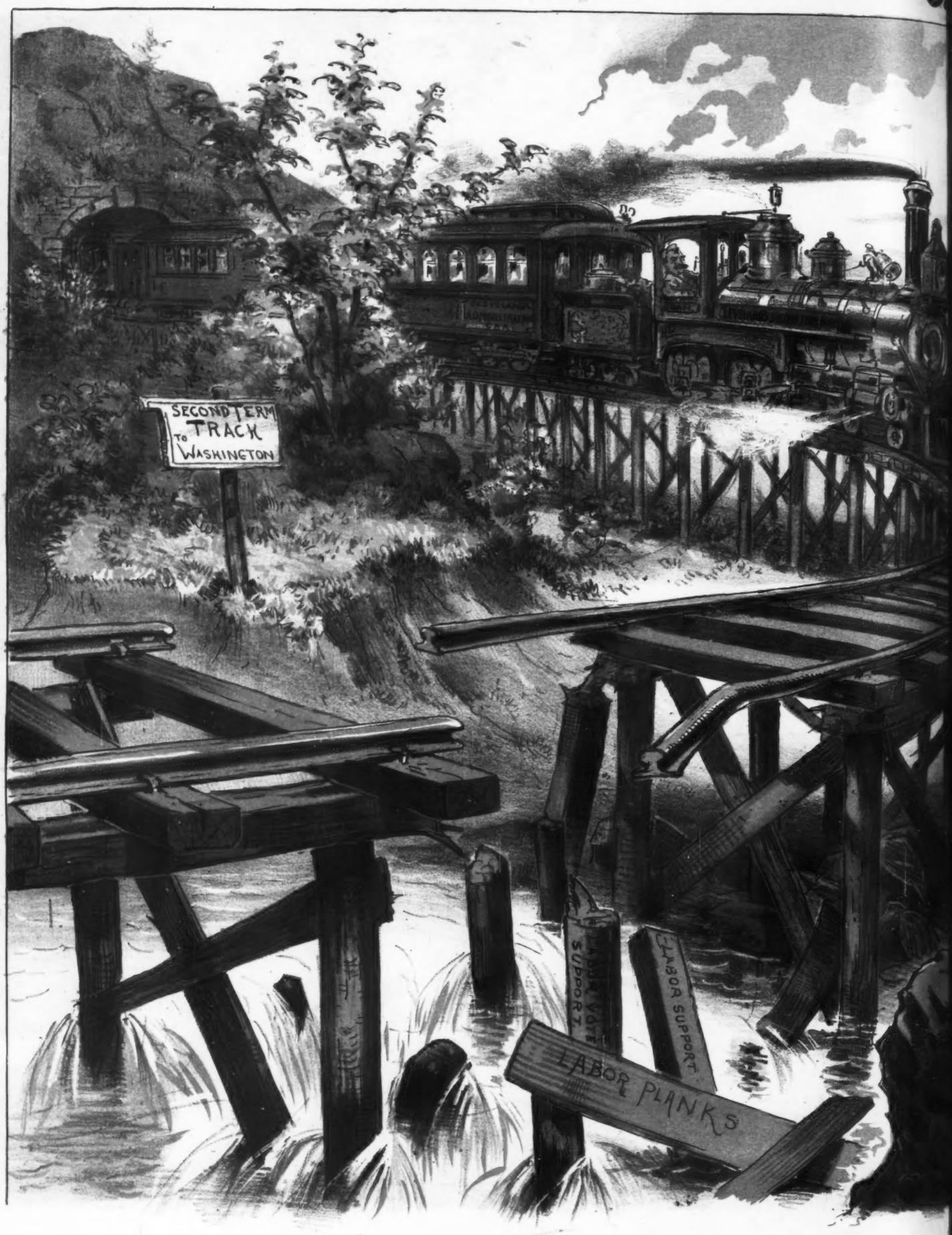
Tramp—"Won't you help a poor man who lost all of his relatives in the rebellion?"

Mistress of the house—"About how much would you require to help you assuage your grief?"

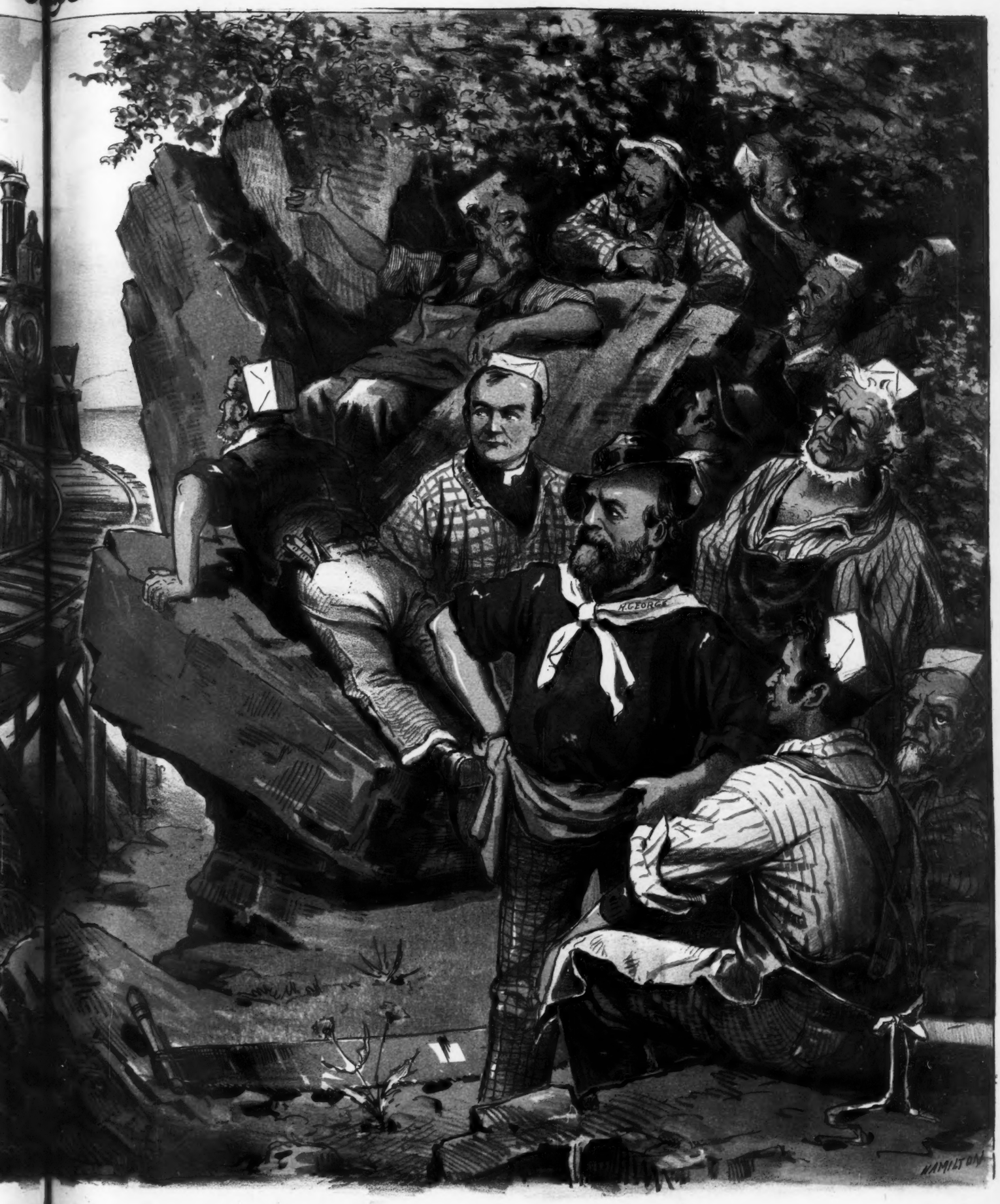
Tramp—"If it's a cash transaction we'll call it ten cents."

If every dishonest man's picture were in the rogues' gallery there would be little deception in this world.

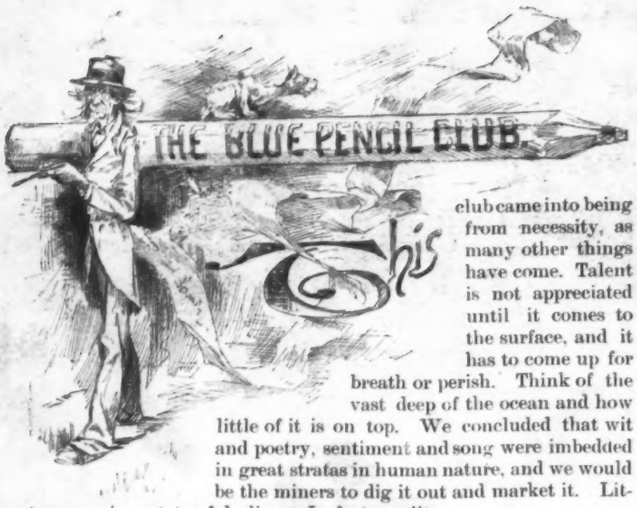
"Sumthin'" hit!!!



ANOTHER FIENDISH ATT



H ATTEMPT TO WRECK A TRAIN.



This club came into being from necessity, as many other things have come. Talent is not appreciated until it comes to the surface, and it has to come up for breath or perish. Think of the vast deep of the ocean and how little of it is on top. We concluded that wit and poetry, sentiment and song were imbedded in great stratas in human nature, and we would be the miners to dig it out and market it. Literature was in a state of decline. In fact our literature had been declined wherever presented. We would organize this club and faithfully read and comment on all productions. There was a lurking suspicion that poems which might have moved a world to tears were tossed unread into the waste-basket. Jokes which might have sent a ripple of mirth around the globe fell coldly on the ears of editors, and sentiment which might have moved the masses—"them asses," as Sidney Daboll Bostick, our green poet, who was nicely Browning, said—"chucked out of a window as worthless." Why did Annette Pinkerson and Wilkerson McFadden, our novelists, have to pay for the printing of their stories in the country papers when Mrs. Burnett and Howells and James were rolling in wealth? That is what they said, although we do not know how any one rolls in wealth unless it is in barrels and is rolled into the cellar. Throckmorton Jones, who had achieved distinction by writing sarcastic articles in regard to the exactions of a plank road and signing himself "Junius" and "Old Subscriber," was made president of the club. Harrison Harkins, who originated

"I thank you for the honor conferred upon me."

"I hold in my hand," said the president, "a literary gem."

the style of joke, "Why doesn't February March?" "I don't know, but April May," was made secretary. Sidney Daboll Bostick was made treasurer, and thanked the club in a touching and lengthy manner. He said, "This 'ere club is not to be a Willard asylum of incurable literary lunatics. It is to be a congenial Olympus on which kindred spirits may meet and compare their mental toils. Here the wings of fancy may be spread, and, diving deep into the ocean of fancy, bring back the gems from distant mines. (Applause.) Here the adamantine rocks of truth shall pour their beacon lights upon the parched deserts of ignorance in limpid streams. (Cries of 'Go it, Sid.') Here envy may never leer with hateful eyes, nor slander pour out her baleful tale. I thank you for the honor conferred upon me. The sacred and heavy trust of caring for the funds of a literary club would crush some men, but I undertake it gladly. Again I thank you." (Uproarious applause.)

There were thirty-two charter members, and they immediately proceeded to business. It was voted to decry the use of a bouncing chair for spring poets, also to discountenance the use of a lime-hole for poor compositors once used by the Rochester *Express*. Also during the heated term a man was to be allowed to ask "Is this warm enough for you?" without imperiling his life. Dropping a man down the elevator well for bringing in a poem tied with blue ribbon was voted a barbarism and relic of the dark ages. Base-ball clubs standing beside the managing editor's chair in newspaper offices were voted a standing menace and repressive of native genius.

At this moment Ebenezer Skaggs, the sub-editor on the Columbia County *Clarion*, arose and asked the president, "If I was to lose a dog in New York in January, why would I look for him in the pound?"

The awestricken president whispered that there was no pound in New York in midwinter.

And coughed loudly to attract attention.

"I alluded," said Skaggs, "to the pound of sausage I might buy."

A groan was heard all over the room, and the president appointed a committee to examine Skaggs and take away any more such jokes he might have concealed about his person.

"I hold here in my hand," said the president, "a literary gem which is now very much in vogue. No funny paper can do without the double-barreled poetic joke on phonetic spelling. Whether there is a market for them I do not know, but they are served up at every literary meal and some one must furnish them. They are easy to manufacture and not very wearing on the brain; in fact no brain is necessary. A dictionary and a pencil do the work."

There was a young man of great vigor
As a hunter was making a figor,
With an unloaded gun,
Which he pointed in fun,
Shot his dog when he pulled on the triggor.

A gloom which might be felt, or straw, or any other material, it was so thick, fell on the gathering. "I will appoint a committee to report on this style of fun at our next meeting. In the meantime cheer up. There is nothing fatal in the verse."

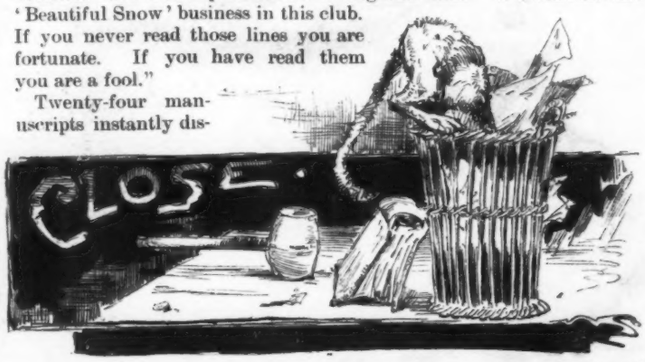
At this moment Algernon Swinburne Pangborn, a young man with red pimples and white hair, arose and drew a manuscript from his hip pocket and coughed loudly to attract attention. "I have here a little morceau on life which is not very dead. I threw it off in an idle moment."

SORROW VERSUS JOY.

"Laugh and the world laughs with you,
Weep and you weep alone."

"Stop right there," yelled the president; "Col. Joyce and Ella Wheeler each has a poem commencing like that. We will have no 'Beautiful Snow' business in this club. If you never read those lines you are fortunate. If you have read them you are a fool."

Twenty-four manuscripts instantly disappeared. The gavel fell and the first meeting closed. It looks as if a good deal of instruction and amusement might grow out of "The Blue Pencil Club."



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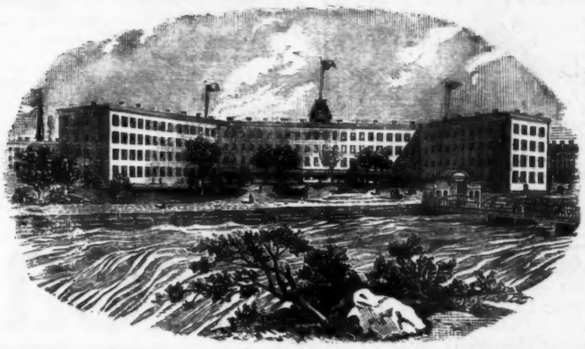

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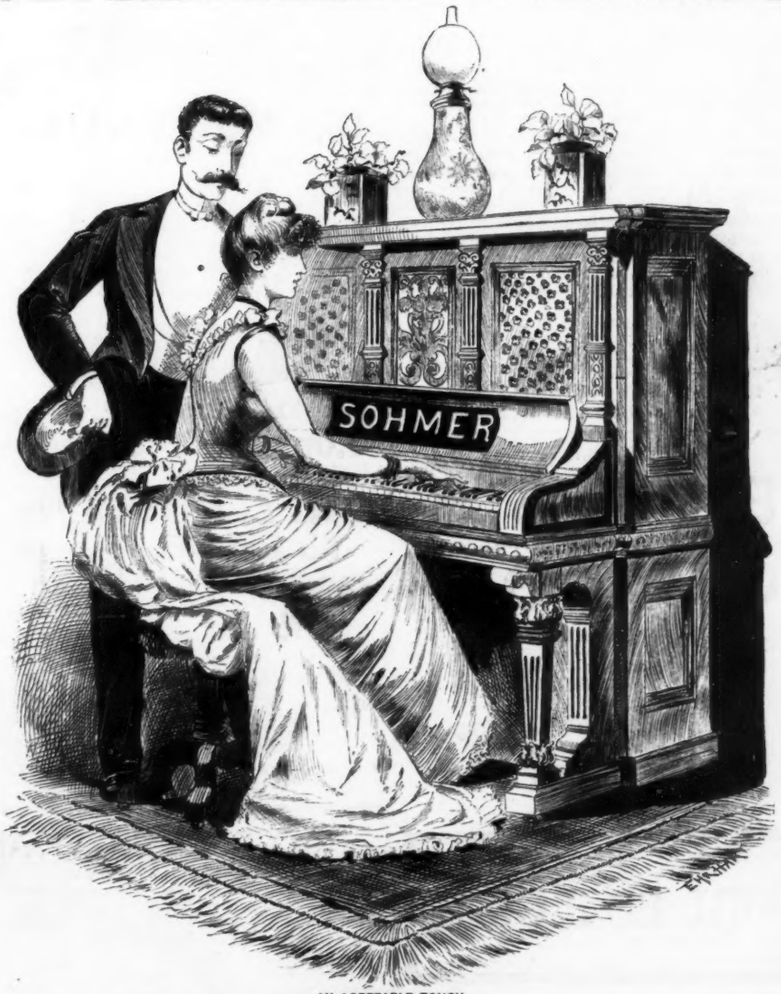

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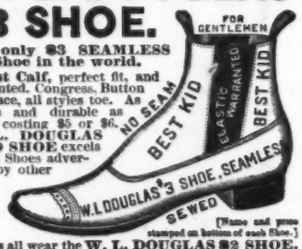

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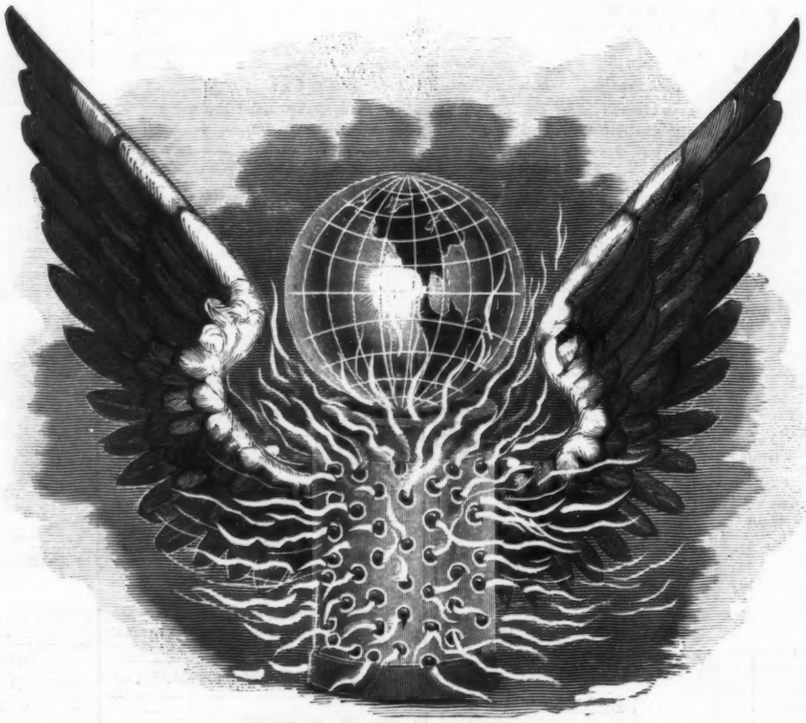

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